

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 DHA-02 PRS-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 /063 W

-----151531Z 078348 /53

R 150701Z JUN 77 ZDK CITE RUEHCS 1086W
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7134
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL TUNIS 4187

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, TS
SUBJ: CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC LIBERTIES

REF: TUNIS 4113

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AFTER CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC LIBERTIES WAS BLICKED, HASSIB BEN AMMAR PROTESTED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION AND CALED FOR THE FREEING OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE MANIFESTO CALLING FOR THIS CONFERENCE (SEE TUNIS 2590) HAD BEEN SIGNED BY NEARLY 600 PERSONS INCLUDING FIVE POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING HELD BY THE GOT AT THE BIZERTE PRISON. BEN AMMAR SAID THAT HE WOULD SEEK PROPER APPROVAL FROM GOT FOR THE "COUNCIL ON LIBERTIES," WHICH HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES HAD "CREATED" JUNE 9 AT THE TUNIS-CARTHAGE AIRPORT.

2. PUBLIC REACTION TO GOT BLOCKAGE OF CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC LIBERTIES HAD BEEN MUTED. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE WAS LIMITED TO BRIEF ARTICLE IN PSD DAILY L'ACTION ON JUNE

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11 REPORTING THAT "WE UNDERSTAND THAT PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES INTERDICTED HOLDING OF A MEETING CONVOKED BY HASSIB BEN AMMAR TO CREATE WHAT HE CALLED THE 'COUNCIL OF LIBERTIES.'" L'ACTION NOTED THAT SEVERAL FOREIGN PERSONALITIES HAD COME TO TUNIS FOR THIS EVENT AND REMINDED ITS READERS THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAD RECENTLY GIVEN APPROVAL TO THE LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN. SEMI-INDEPENDENT DAILY LE TEMPS, WHICH

HAD REPORTED ON PRELIMINARY WORK FOR CONFERENCE, WAS APPARENTLY
SCARED OFF THE STORY BY GOT AND DID NOT REPORT THE BLOCKAGE ON
JUNE 10.

3. WELL-INFORMED TUNISIAN HAVE HAD ACCESS TO MOST OF THE FACTS
SURROUNDING THE BLOCKAGE OF THE CONFERENCE VIA TWO ARTICLES
IN LE MONDE (ON JUNE 11 AND 12). THESE ISSUES OF LE MONDE
WERE SOLD FREELY ON TUNIS NEWSSTANDS.

MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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